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1909-12-27

Letter from R[ichard] A[chilles] Ballinger to John Muir, 1909 Dec 27.

Richard Achilles Ballinger

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

Personal.

December 27, 1909.

My dear Mr. Muir:

Yours of the 20th instant is just received, and I note what you say respecting the exchange of lands in the national park with the City of San Francisco. Your suggestion strikes me with much favor.

In view of the present complications surrounding this matter and the submission to the voters of San Francisco of a bond issue, I have felt that I should be careful in making any public expression regarding the subject. I would respectfully suggest that you write Hon. F. W. Mondell, Chairman, Committee on Public Lands, House of Representatives, your views as contained in your letter to me.

If the city should ultimately decide to buy the Spring Valley Water Company's properties, it might put an entirely different phase on the whole matter. Would it not be best to await the result of their negotiations, which, I understand, point strongly to this result?

From my personal visit to the park this last summer, I have acquired very definite views regarding the proper treatment of this subject and will report them in due time to the President.

Remembering with much pleasure my trip with you through the park, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

R. B. Baughman
Secretary.

Mr. John Muir,
Martinez, Cal.

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